NUMB. CLXXXIX.

The SPECTATOR.

———Patriæ pietatis imago. Virg.

Saturday, October 6. 1711.

THE following Letter being written to my Bookſeller, upon a Subject of which I treated ſome time ſince, I ſhall Publiſh it in this Paper, together with the Letter was incloſed in it.

Mr. Buckley,

MR. SPECTATOR having of late deſcanted upon the Cruelty of Parents to their Children, have been induced (at the Requeſt of ſeveral of Mr. SPECTATOR's Admirers) to encloſe this Letter, which I aſſure you is the Original from a Father to his own Son, notwithſtanding the latter gave but little or no Provocation. It would be mightily obliging to the World, if Mr. SPECTATOR would give his Opinion of it, in one of his Speculations, and particularly to

(Mr. *Buckley*)

Your Humble Servant.

SIRRAH,

YOU are a ſawcy audacious Raſcal, and both Fool and Mad, and I care not a Farthing whether you comply or no; that does not raze out my Impreſſions of your Inſolence, going about Railing at me, and the next Day to ſollicit my Favour: Theſe are Inconſiſtencies, ſuch as diſcover thy Reaſon depraved. To be brief, I never deſire to ſee your Face; and, Sirrah, if you go to the Work-houſe, it's no Diſgrace to me for you to be ſupported there; and if you ſhould ſtarve in the Streets, I'll never give any thing underhand in your behalf. If I have any more of your ſcribling Nonſenſe, I'll break your Head, the firſt time I ſet Sight on you: You are a ſtubborn Beaſt; is this your Gratitude for my giving you Mony? You Rogue, I'll better your Judgment, and give you a greater Senſe of your Duty to (I regret to ſay) your Father, *&c.*

P. S.

'It's Prudence for you to keep out of my Sight; for to reproach me, that Might overcomes Right, on the outſide of your Letter, I ſhall give you a great knock on the Skull for it.

Was there ever ſuch an Image of Paternal Tenderneſs! It was uſual among ſome of the *Greeks* to make their Slaves drink to exceſs, and then expoſe them to their Children, who by that means conceived an early Averſion to a Vice which makes Men appear ſo monſtrous and irrational. I have expoſed this Picture of an unnatural Father with the ſame Intention, that its Deformity may deter others from its Reſemblance. If the Reader has a mind to ſee a Father of the ſame Stamp repreſented in the moſt exquiſite ſtroaks of Humour, he may meet with it in one of the fineſt Comedies that ever appeared upon the *Engliſh* Stage: I mean the Part of Sir *Sampſon* in *Love for Love.*

I muſt not however engage my ſelf blindly on the ſide of the Son, to whom the fond Letter above-written was directed. His Father calls him a *ſawcy and audacious Raſcal* in the firſt Line, and I am afraid upon Examination he will prove but an ungracious Youth. *To go about Railing* at his Father, and to find no other place but *the outſide of his Letter* to tell him *that Might overcomes Right*, if it does not diſcover *his Reaſon to be depraved*, and *that he is either Fool or Mad*, as the Cholerick old Gentleman tells him, we may at leaſt allow that the Father will do very well in endeavouring to *better his Judgment, and give him a greater Senſe of his Duty.* But whether this may be brought about *by breaking his Head*, or *giving him a great knock on the Skull*, ought I think to be well conſidered. Upon the whole, I wiſh the Father has not met with his Match, and that he may not be as equally paired with a Son, as the Mother in *Virgil.*

———Crudelis tu quoque mater:
Crudelis mater magis an puer improbus ille?
Improbus ille puer, crudelis tu quoque mater.

Or like the Crow and her Egg in the *Greek* Proverb.

Κακὴ κόραξ κακὸν ὠόν.

I muſt here take Notice of a Letter which I have received from an unknown Correſpondent, upon the Subject of my Paper, upon which the foregoing Letter

ter is likewiſe founded. The Writer of it ſeems very much concerned leaſt that Paper ſhould ſeem to give Encouragement to the Diſobedience of Children towards their Parents; but if the Writer of it will take the Pains to read it over again attentively, I dare ſay his Apprehenſions will vaniſh. Pardon and Reconciliation are all the Penitent Daughter requeſts, and all that I contend for in her behalf, and in this caſe I may uſe the Saying of an eminent Wit, who upon ſome great Mens preſſing him to forgive his Daughter that had Married againſt his Conſent, told them he could refuſe nothing to their Inſtances, but that he would have them remember there was Difference between *Giving* and *Forgiving*.

I muſt confeſs, in all Controverſies between Parents and their Children, I am naturally prejudiced in favour of the former. The Obligations on that ſide can never be acquitted, and I think it is one of the greateſt Reflections upon Human Nature that Paternal Inſtinct ſhould be a ſtronger Motive to Love than Filial Gratitude; that the receiving of Favours ſhould be a leſs Inducement to Good-will, Tenderneſs and Commiſeration, than the conferring of them; and that the taking Care of any Perſon ſhould endear the Child or Dependant more to the Parent or Benefactor, than the Parent or Benefactor to the Child or Dependant; yet ſo it happens, that for one cruel Parent we meet with a thouſand undutiful Children. This is indeed wonderfully contrived (as I have formerly obſerved) for the Support of every living Species; but at the ſame time that it ſhows the Wiſdom of the Creator, it diſcovers the Imperfection and Degeneracy of the Creature.

The Obedience of Children to their Parents is the Baſis of all Government, and ſet forth as the meaſure of that Obedience which we owe to thoſe whom Providence hath placed over us.

It is Father *le Conte*, if I am not miſtaken, who tells us how want of Duty in this Particular is puniſhed among the *Chineſe*, inſomuch that if a Son ſhould be known to kill or ſo much as to ſtrike his Father, not only the Criminal, but his whole Family would be rooted out, nay the Inhabitants of the Place where he lived would be put to the Sword, nay the Place it ſelf would be razed to the Ground, and its Foundations ſown with Salt: For, ſay they, there muſt have been an utter Depravation of Manners in that Clan or Society of People, who could have bred up among them ſo horrible an Offender. To this I ſhall add a Paſſage out of the firſt Book of *Herodotus*. That Hiſtorian in his Account of the *Perſian* Cuſtoms and Religion tells us, it is their Opinion that no Man ever killed his Father, or that it is poſſible ſuch a Crime ſhould be in Nature; but that if any thing like it ſhould ever happen, they conclude that the reputed Son muſt have been Illegitimate, Suppoſititious, or begotten in Adultery. Their Opinion in this Particular ſhews ſufficiently what a Notion they muſt have had of Undutifulneſs in general.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Saturday, being the 6th of October, will be preſented a Comedy call'd the Chances, as it was alter'd by the late Duke of Buckingham. The Part of Don John by Mr. Wilks, Don Frederick by Mr. Mills, Antonia by Mr. Penkethman, Anthony by Mr. Norris, Conſtance by Mrs. Oldfield, Lindlady by Mrs. Willis. To which will be added a Farce of one Act only, call'd the Country Wake, (reviſ'd with Alterations.) The Part of Hob by Mr. Dogget, Sir Tho. Telly by Mr. Bullock, Freindly by Mr. Pack, Flora by Mrs. Sandlow, and all the other Parts to the beſt Advantage.

At the Indian Man in Ruſſel-Street Covent-Garden, is a Parcel of rich Jewels, viz. a Brilliant Diamond Ring and Croſs, Ear-Rings, Rings, Buckles, Pendants, and alſo fine Lace, rich Silks, Muſlins, and other valuable Goods, to be diſpos'd or at reaſonable Rates, the whole amounting to 675 l. which, for the Encouragement of Buyers, will be divided into 360 Shares, the biggeſt whereof is 10 l. Value, and the leaſt 10 s. Any one of theſe may be purchaſed for the little Sum of Half a Crown, as may be known more at large at the Place of Sale, where Attendance will be given till all the Goods be ſold. It being very near full, the Shares will be divided the 18th Inſtant without fail, and ſooner if full.

Notice is hereby given, that in a Vault under The Vies Inn againſt Hatton Garden, in Holbourn, are to be ſold by Retail, new natural Oporto Wine Red and White, imported by the Adriatick, at 16 d. per Quart without Door, and 18 d. within, at 16 l. per Hogſhead: And Red Bene Carlos Barcelona Wines, Double Bright, ſtrong and perfect ſound, at 12 d. per Quart without Door, and 14 d. within, and 12 l. per Hogſhead. Note, The aboveſaid Sale of Wines will be continued till all ſhall be ſold.

A Houſe to be Lett in Denmark-ſtreet by St. Giles's Church, well fitted up, with or without a piece of Ground for Coach-houſe and Stables. Enquire at Mr. Harris's, a Cornchandler at the end of the ſaid Street, or of Mr. John Evans, Bricklayer, at the Rails in Queen ſtreet by the Seven Dyals.

Loſt on Friday the 28th of September, near the Royal Exchange, a Large Italian Greyhound Dog, Mouſe colour, with white Feet, a white Tip on his Tail, a white Spot on his Neck, a Star on his Forehead, and his Noſe ſpotted with Black. Whoever brings him to Mr. Charles Lillie, at the Corner of Beaufort Buildings, ſhall Receive half a Guinea reward.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

The Second Edition of Theſaurus Theologicus: Or a Compleat Syſtem of Divinity: Summ'd up in Brief Notes upon the Chief Places of the Old and New Teſtament. By William Beveridge, D. D. Late Lord Biſhop of St. Aſaph. Compleat in 4 Volumes. Printed for Richard Smith in Exeter-Exchange in the Strand, where may be had all the Biſhop's other Works.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

Reaſons why this Nation ought to put a ſpeedy end to this expenſive War, with a brief Eſſay at the probable Conditions on which the Peace now Negotiating may be founded: Alſo an Enquiry into the Obligations Britain lies under to the Allies, and how far ſhe is obliged not to make Peace without them. Price 6 d. Sold by J. Baker in Pater-noſter-row. Where may be had an Impartial View of the two laſt Parliaments and the late Seſſions, &c. Price

This Day is Publiſh'd,

Religio Clerici: or, The Devotions of a Private Country Divine of the the Church of England. Printed for N. Cliff and D. Jackſon, at the Bible and 3 Crowns in Cheapſide; where may be had an Account of ſome Remarkable Paſſages in the Life of a Private Gentleman; alſo the Life of Mr. Tho. Beard, Written by himſelf, &c.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

Maps of the World, Aſia, and South America, engraved by J. Senex, which compleat a Set of 10 Maps, viz. the World, Quarters, and principal Diviſions of Europe, each on two Sheets of Imperial Paper. Sold by J. Senex and J. Maxwell at the Globe in Salisbury-Court, Fleet ſtreet. Mr. Mount on Tower-hill, Mr. Hyde behind the Royal Exchange, Mr. King in the Poultry, Mr. Lyon againſt Exeter Change in the Strand, and by Mr. Graves in St. James's-ſtreet.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in, as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.